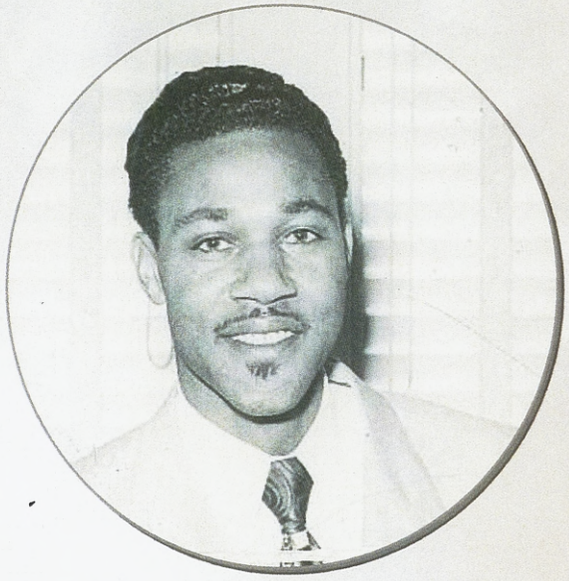
Celebration of Life

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Pastor Frank Holley, Sr.



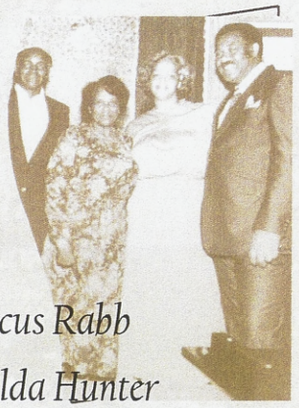
Sunrise: 10/21/1926
Sunset: 3/26/2019

Psalm 34:8
" O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him."

Faith Community Foursquare Church
5519 S. Avalon Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90011

Eulogist:
Pastor Francelia L. James
C.H.O.W. Ministries

Order of Celebration



Processional	
Officiat	*Pastor Marcus Rabb*
Invocation:	*Minister Velda Hunter*
Scripture: *Old: Psalm: 34:1-8,*	*Deacon Dedrick Brown*
New: 1Thesselonians: 4:13-17,	*Pastor Michael Wright*
Music	*Evangelist Marquita Knight*
Expressions	*Brother Bassard Richardson*
	Charles Veal
	Deacon Robert Terrell
Acknowledgments	*Sister Rose Terrell*
Expressions	*Holly Watts*
	Elijah Hardgraves
	Jaslyn Fellows
Tribute	*United States Military*
Music	*Brother E. Prez Blackmon*
Expression	*Joshua Brown*
	Pilar Holley
	Darrell Williams Jr.
Resolutions	*Evangelist Gladys Wright*
	Sister Bonita Roznos
An A Capella Worship Experience	*Shauna L. Holley*
Dedicated to Daddy	
Eulogy	*Pastor Francelia L. James*
Recessional	

FRANK HOLLEY, SR.

OCTOBER. 21, 1926 - MARCH 26, 2019

Frank Holley, Sr., the amiable father, husband, pastor, and genuinely good-natured human being, was called home to glory on March 26, 2019. It hardly seemed real that he was gone. Most felt the gregarious, bigger-than-life personality that he was would be around forever. But Hebrews 9:27 is true: "... it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." As one Holley sibling concluded, "Daddy closed his eyes for the final time" on that eventful day.

Frank served as pastor of Avalon Zion Foursquare Gospel Church for three decades. The man who was as physically imposing at 6 feet four inches tall, as he was in spirit, left an undeniable brilliant legacy beginning on the day he was born to Moses and Emma Holley, on Oct., 21, 1926, in Glenmora, LA. The hardships of the Great Depression during Frank's formative years upbringing, helped define who he would become in adulthood. He had to forego formal schooling at age 8 to assist in the family share cropping business to make ends meet during an enduring time in America's history. It was considerably harder for Black families then. Other than that, Frank was just like any other youngster in the rural south adept at hunting and fishing.

Years later, like many young men during the Second World War in the 1940s, Frank joined the U.S. Army, where he saw action in the European Theater driving vehicles in the "Red Ball Express," the codename for one of World War II's vaunted logistics operations of more than 6,000 trucks that delivered 412,000 tons of ammunition, food, and fuel to the Allied forces between Aug. 25 and Nov. 16, 1944," on the final push by the U.S. and it allies to defeat Nazi, Germany. When Frank was discharged from active duty he received a Victory Medal.

After the war and his military experience, Frank became part of another tug of war -- the battle between light and darkness, good and evil, when he gave his heart to Jesus Christ. True to form, he didn't "half-step" in his devotion to Christ and the faith. Blessed with a rich bass voiced, "Big Frank," as he was fondly called by his closest friends developed a penchant for Gospel singing, ministering across the U.S. as a part of the popular quartet, the Traveling Four, and The Kansas City Gospel Singers.

During the course of his singing escapades, Frank met Mattie Louise Garcia at Jerusalem Church of God in Christ in San Francisco, Calif., at a Gospel concert hosted by her singing group. It was love at first sight, which no one could deny, as the pair united in matrimony just seven days later live on the air of a Christian radio show. Abiding by the Word

in Proverbs 22, Frank didn't hesitate to ask for Mattie's hand in marriage: "Whoso finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor of the Lord."

Frank found a good thing in Mattie, moved to Los Angeles and immediately started a family. From the immaculate union came four children -- Vivian Joselle, Francelia, Shauna Latrice, and Frank, Jr. Frank rooted the family in the nurture and admonition of the Lord Jesus Christ at the venerable Mount Olive Church of God in Christ where the family grew and was strengthened in the faith for many decades, immersed in the teaching of the Gospel, in the ministry of singing in the Stewart Memorial Choir, and where Frank served as Youth Pastor for Mount Olive until 1978, when he accepted a higher calling as pastor of Avalon Zion. Pastor Frank served Avalon Zion faithfully for three decades.

Frank was an avid family man, whose extended family included many not born into the fold, but whom the family generally embraced through loving kindness. Three individuals profoundly blessed by the Holley benevolence included Dellene Rae Maddox, Jamika Asholon Canson and Beverly Willis.

Dellene was ushered into the family's embrace after the death of her family. Pastor Frank and First Lady Mattie Holley took her in and raised her at her grandmother's request, in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord." She has been an integral part of the family from that moment to this day.

Jamika, as the story goes, was just an infant when a member of Avalon Zion placed her in Mattie's arms during a church service. Mattie fell in love with the child and bonded in love immediately. From that moment until both Frank and Mattie departed this life, Jamika remained in their arms.

Evangelist, Dr. Beverly Willis, affectionately called "Baby," too found a special place in the hearts of Pastor and 1st Lady Holley, becoming their Goddaughter.

God was first in Frank's life, followed by his wife, family, and the preachment of God's Word to His people and the lost everywhere as ordered for his life. He was a diligent provider, working to feed and clothed his family, finally retiring from Harbor Community College after accepting the fulltime pastorate at Avalon Zion. Prior to that he was employed for with the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Frank might have been a "preacher man," but he found time for many other hobbies and pursuits. He

was an avid tennis player for many years taking to the local courts to engage with friends, among them, Richard Williams, the widely-known and respected dad of famed professional tennis icons Venus and Serena Williams, whom Frank knew as pre-teens. He often recalled with pride, the day he and a close friend teamed-up in a doubles match against the adolescent pair and winning.

Frank also was a student of Black History and foreign languages -- Spanish, in particular and learned to converse in German during his stint in the Army while in Europe, and was able to recite the Lord's Prayer. Frank also taught himself to play the guitar, clarinet, and piano. He was a devoted sports fan, especially basketball and counted the San Antonio Spurs as his favorite team. San Antonio center, NBA Hall of Famer Tim Duncan was his favorite player.

Frank was competitive beyond the tennis courts, too. Anyone who spent time at the Holley home during holidays, namely Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas knew he had a grasp of the game of checkers and didn't like to lose. He enjoyed cooking, too and could make a pot of pinto beans "taste like steak," as he often said.

Frank Holley, known by many monikers --- "daddy, pastor, Big Frank, and Pop," had many attributes, not the least of which was his good taste in clothing attire and "GQ" style of dress -- from size 16EEE matching shoes to his stylish top hats. He and First Lady Mattie, were arguably at the forefront of the "Best-Dressed Couple in L.A., on any list. A long list of cherished memories include his pulpit sermons (memorable quote: "God didn't fatten frogs for snakes") and "the best Christmastime family gatherings ever!

Frank is with Mattie in eternity, now, and will never be forgotten.

He left a rich legacy.

He was preceded in death by his mother, father, siblings, and his lovely wife, First Lady Mattie Louise Holley. He leaves to mourn 6 children, 2 son-in-Laws, 1 sister-in-Law, 19 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends. Though the friends and family of Pastor Frank Holley will forever miss him, they rejoice in heaven's gain.

PALLBEARERS:

Darrell Henry Williams, Jr.

Daniel Frank Williams

Joshua Dedrick Brown

David Robert Williams

Jharmaine Fellows

Elijah Hardgraves

Honorary Pallbearers:

Charles Veal

Jermaine Marshall

Christian Bennett

REPAST:

Park Hill Community Center

5245 Overdale Dr.

View Park-Windsor Hills, CA

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

The family of Pastor Frank Holley Sr., would like to thank you for the prayers, expressions of condolence, encouragements, meals and precious memories. Most of all, we thank you for the love you have shown toward Pastor Holley. The family will respond to your outpouring of love in the near future.

The Holley family would like to extend a special "thank you" to Minister Stephan Terry for so graciously sharing your gift of music, to the United States Military for your honorable tribute and to Pastor D.T. Paredes and the entire Faith Community Foursquare Church family for your loving kindness toward us.

SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO:

Inglewood Cemetery Mortuary

3801 W. Manchester BLVD

Inglewood, CA 90301

310-413-6811